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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/741,691	12/15/2000	Vipin Samar	OR00-14201	6542

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EXAMINER

SON, LINH L D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2135

DATE MAILED: 07/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/741,691

Applicant(s)

SAMAR, VIPIN

Examiner

Linh LD Son

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 December 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4,7-12,15,18-23,26 and 29-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4,7-12,15,18-23,26 and 29-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 03/14/05.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is responding to the RCE dated 04/18/05.
2. Claims 2-3, 5-6, 13-14, 16-17, 24-25, and 27-28 are canceled.
3. Claims 1, 4, 7-12, 15, 18-23, 26, and 29-33 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1, 4, 7-12, 15, 18-23, 26, and 29-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dickinson et al, US Patent No. 6853988B1, hereinafter "Dickinson".

6. As per claims 1, 12, and 23, Dickinson discloses "A method for facilitating the delegation of operations involved in providing digital signatures to a signature server, the method comprising: allowing a user to authenticate the signature server" in (Col 7 lines 7-30); "receiving the message from the user at the signature server, the message including an item to be signed on behalf of the user by the signature server" in (Col 47 lines 30-45); "authenticating the user at the signature server" in (Col 47 lines 40-45):

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“determining whether the user is authorized to sign the item by communicating with an authority sever that is separate from the signature server” in (Col 21 lines 1-50, and Col 21 line 60 to Col 22 line 17); “looking up a private key for the user at the signature server” in (Col 7 lines 7-15, and Col 21 lines 42-50); and “signing the item with the private key for the user” in (Col 47 lines 40-47). However, Dickinson only teach of sending the message with the authentication data for signing at the same time.

Nevertheless, it would have been obvious for one having ordinary skill in the art to modify Dickinson to authenticate with the server first before sending the message for signing to the signing server for the purpose of reducing requesting for service memory in the server and further increasing the possibility of compromising the message by the party that is mistakenly sent to.

7. As per claims 4, 15, and 26, Dickinson discloses “The method of claims 1, 12, and 23, wherein determining whether the user is authorized to sign the item involves looking up an authorization for the user based upon an identifier for the user as well as an identifier for an application to which the user will send the signed item” in (Col 21 lines 43-67).

8. As per claims 7, 18, and 29, Dickinson discloses “The method of claims 1, 12, and 23, further comprising returning the signed item to the user so that the user can send the signed item to a recipient” in (Col 48 lines 23-30).

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9. As per claims 8, 19, and 30, Dickinson discloses "The method of claims 1, 12, and 23, wherein the method further comprises configuring the signature server to accommodate a new user by: receiving a request from an authorized entity to add the new user" in (Col 18 lines 36-55); "generating a key pair for the new user, including a new user private key and a new user public key; communicating with a certification authority, to obtain a certificate for the new user based on the key pair" in (Col 19 line 35 to Col 20 line 5); and "storing the certificate and the key pair for the new user in a location that is accessible by the signature server to enable the signature server to sign items on behalf of the new user" in (Col 20 lines 40-45).

10. As per claims 9, 20, and 31, Dickinson discloses "The method of claims 1, 12, and 23, wherein the method further comprises configuring the signature server to delete an old user by: receiving a request from an authorized entity to delete the old user; notifying a certification authority to revoke a certificate for the old user; and removing the private key for the old user from the signature server, so that the signature server can no longer sign items on behalf of the old user" in (Col 19 lines 1-9).

11. As per claims 10, 21, and 32, Dickinson discloses "The method of claims 1, 12, and 23, wherein the method further comprises archiving the message and the signed item at the signature server" in (Col 26 lines 39-53).

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12. As per claims 11, 22, and 33, Dickinson discloses "The method of claims 1, 12, and 23, wherein the method further comprises forwarding the signed item to an archive server in order to be archived" in (Col 30 lines 35-49).

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Linh LD Son whose telephone number is 571-272-3856. The examiner can normally be reached on 9-6 (M-F).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Vu can be reached on 571-272-3859. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Linh LD Son
Examiner
Art Unit 2135

LDS
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2135